

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2023

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS MADRID 3779

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT STATEMENTS

1. PRESIDENT FORD MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON ARRIVAL AT
MADRID'S BARAJAS AIRPORT MORNING OF MAY 31, TO BEGIN
STATE VISIT TO SPAIN:

"GENERALISSIMO FRANCO, MRS. FRANCO, FRIENDS OF
SPAIN AND OF THE UNITED STATES:

I BEGIN MY VISIT IN SPAIN WITH VERY REAL SATISFACTION
THAT COMES FROM RENEWING AND UNDERLINING THE TRADITIONAL
RELATIONSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

MY LAST VISIT TO SPAIN WAS AT A TIME OF MOURNING IN
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THE CLOSING DAYS OF 1973. TODAY IS A HAPPIER OCCASION.

I LOOK FORWARD WITH KEEN INTEREST TO OUR DISCUSSIONS.

THIS IS A TIME OF RAPID CHANGE AND CHALLENGE WORLD-WIDE. WE SHALL RESPOND TO THESE NEW CHALLENGES AS WE MUST, BOTH INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY. I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR PROVEN ABILITY TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE PURSUIT OF COMMON INTERESTS, AND I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN SPAIN -- A NATION WITH FUTURE OF GREAT PROMISE.

THE DIGNITY, THE PRIDE, THE RESILIENCE OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FORGED OVER A HISTORY MUCH LONGER THAN THAT OF THE UNITED STATES. SPAIN HAS CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE HISTORY AND TO THE CULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES. TODAY, MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF AMERICANS SPEAK THE SPANISH LANGUAGE.

MY VISIT TO SPAIN IS, ABOVE ALL, THE RECOGNITION OF SPAIN'S SIGNIFICANCE AS A FRIEND AND AS A PARTNER. OUR EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP IS CONFIRMED IN THE 1974 JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. OUR PEOPLES SEEK THE SAME OBJECTIVES OF PEACE, PROGRESS AND FREEDOM. BY GEOGRAPHY AND BY HISTORY, SPAIN HAS A LOGICAL PLACE IN THE TRANS-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY.

FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS, SPAIN HAS SHARED WITH AMERICA AND WITH EUROPE THE BURDENS OF PROMOTING THE PROSPERITY AND THE SECURITY OF THE ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS. SPAIN CAN BE PROUD OF THAT CONTRIBUTION.

GENERALISSIMO FRANCO, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, FRIENDS, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO BRING TO YOU THE GREETINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. OUR TWO COUNTRIES LOOK FORWARD TO A FUTURE OF EXPANDING COOPERATION. I KNOW THAT WE WILL MEET THE CHALLENGES AND THE CHANGES THAT LIE AHEAD.

THANK YOU."

2. PRESIDENT FORD'S REMARKS WERE PRECEDED BY FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENT OF WELCOME BY GENERAL FRANCISCO FRANCO, SPANISH CHIEF OF STATE:

"MR. PRESIDENT:

IN BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF SPAIN I WISH TO EXTEND TO YOU AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION OUR MOST FRIENDLY AND WARMEST WELCOME.

IT IS FOR US A GREAT HONOR TO RECEIVE YOU TODAY --
AN HONOR, WHICH IS ENHANCED BY THE PRESENCE OF YOUR
CHARMING WIFE AND ALL THE DISTINGUISHED DIGNITARIES WHO
ACCOMPANY YOU. THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT YOU
VISIT MADRID. YOU MADE THE NOBLE GESTURE OF COMING TO US,
REPRESENTING YOUR COUNTRY ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRAGIC
DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, ADMIRAL
CARRERO BLANCO AND JOINING US THEN IN OUR SORROW.

SPAIN AS YOU KNOW, WILL RECEIVE YOU APPRECIATIVELY
TODAY WITH TRADITIONAL RESPECT DUE TO YOURSELF AND TO THE
GREAT NATION YOU REPRESENT.

YOU WILL BE ABLE NOW TO CONFIRM ONCE AGAIN THE
AFFECTION THAT EVERYTHING RELATED TO THE UNITED STATES
INSPIRES IN OUR PEOPLE.

YOU COME TO SPAIN TO A FRIENDLY WELCOME AND WITH
THE PURPOSE OF WORKING TOGETHER IN AN EFFORT WHICH I AM
SURE WILL HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS IN STRENGTHENING THE
EXCELLENT RELATIONS FORTUNATELY ALREADY EXISTING BETWEEN
SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE DEVOTED TO THE
SUPPORT OF GOALS WHICH CONSTITUTE THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES
OF THE WORLD SHOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT
OF THIS HISTORIC MISSION. YOU CAN REST ASSURED, MR.
PRESIDENT, THAT HERE IN SPAIN WE ARE CERTAIN THAT YOUR
COUNTRY, THE GREAT AMERICAN NATION, WITH ITS ENORMOUS
SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL WEIGHT, WILL KNOW HOW TO FIND THE
MEANS TO PRESERVE THIS GREAT LEGACY AND TO TRANSMIT IT
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

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FOR THIS REASON THE SPANISH PEOPLE AS WELL AS OUR
GOVERNMENT AND MYSELF WILL MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS SO
THAT YOUR STAY IN SPAIN WILL BE ESPECIALLY PEACEFUL AND
FRUITFUL.

MR. PRESIDENT, AGAIN ON BEHALF OF ALL, WELCOME
TO SPAIN."
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